



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve Branstetter or Steve.Branstetter@noaa.gov
727-570-5305, FAX 727-570-5583
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

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SHRIMP FISHERY TO RE-OPEN OFF TEXAS ON JULY 15, 2004

Federal waters from 9 to 200 nautical miles off Texas will be open to shrimping 30 minutes after sunset on July 15, 2004. The federal opening corresponds to when Texas opens its waters to shrimp trawling. The shrimp fishery is closed annually off Texas to allow brown shrimp to reach a larger and more valuable size prior to harvest, and to prevent waste of brown shrimp that would otherwise be discarded due to their small size.

Current regulations establish a federal closure from May 15 to July 15, each year, but provide an allowance for annual adjustments by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries). The opening date is determined based on a biological sampling program conducted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

NOAA Fisheries opens federal waters off Texas when the state of Texas opens its territorial waters. Texas opens state waters based on projections of when the mean size of shrimp leaving the estuaries is 112 mm total length, during a period of maximum duration ebb tides. TPWD has projected that the criteria to end the Texas closure will be met on July 15, 2004.

Fishery violations may be reported during business hours (M-F 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) to NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Region Law Enforcement Division at 727-570-5344, or after hours by calling the hotline at 1-800-853-1964.

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